

# TESTS BIAS AND RACISM AT OUR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

## HON. CARDESS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 1995*

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I think it is absolutely appalling, irresponsible, and downright unethical, for a college or university president to say low-test scores of African-American students are linked to their genetic, hereditary background.

I am referring to the insensitive remarks made by Rutgers University president, Francis L. Lawrence, that precipitated a recent act of civil disobedience by many of Rutgers's African-American students during a basketball game.

It is outrageous to even suggest that academically qualified students should be denied access and an opportunity for higher education based solely upon culturally biased standardized tests such as the Scholastic Assessment Test [SAT].

Scientific analyses demonstrates that there is test bias in both the SAT and the ACT [American College Test]. Even the SAT test makers, the Educational Testing Service, warns about the misuse of the SAT.

Mr. Speaker, exclusionary policies, based on racist beliefs, will only further contribute to the widening social and economic inequalities that have characterized American society in recent decades.

Many of the excluded students will be minorities from economically disadvantaged backgrounds who remain disproportionately underrepresented in the Nation's colleges and universities.

In 1991, as chairwoman of the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Competitiveness, I began a series of investigative hearings into intercollegiate athletics and the National Collegiate Athletic Association [NCAA]. A major focus of my investigations revealed the NCAA's misuse of standardized tests which continues to result in a gross disproportionate negative impact on minority student-athletes.

Mr. Speaker, at a time we are trying to increase the earning potential of our youngsters, inflammatory and misinformed statements suggesting that African-Americans, or any group of people, are genetically inferior, cannot and will not be tolerated.

Denying students access to institutions of higher education based on artificial barriers has a direct long-term economic impact. Given the large and rising earnings associated with obtaining a 4-year degree, the personal economic costs associated with being denied an opportunity to obtain a 4-year degree are quite substantial—\$400,000–\$500,000—even for those graduates with modest academic skills.

I applaud the African-American students at Rutgers for not taking this insult to their intelligence sitting down.

## HOOP DREAMS

## HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 1995*

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I would commend to all Members of this body the documentary "Hoop Dreams."

This film chronicles the epic struggle of two young men to get out of the ghetto through higher education.

Because these young men are exceptional basketball players they have an opportunity to attend a good parochial high school in the suburbs of Chicago. Their athletic talents are their ticket to a better life—but attendance at the new school requires a 3-hour bus ride each day.

All our young people need the opportunity for a better education—even if they are not talented athletes. And they should not have to go to private school—or travel 3 hours to find a better life.

Mr. Speaker, when we reform welfare let's expand the educational opportunities for all our citizens—especially our young people.

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MAY MILLER SULLIVAN

## HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 1995*

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues, the passing of May Miller Sullivan on February 8 at the age of 96. Today, February 14, 1995, a poetry reading memorial service will be held to celebrate her life and work.

May Miller Sullivan was a Washington poet, playwright, and educator whose literary career began in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920's. Known professionally as May Miller, she was the last survivor of five children of Kelly Miller, a nationally known author and philosopher who was the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a professor of sociology at Howard University.

Ms. Miller grew up in faculty housing on the Howard University campus in a period when the university was a national gathering place for black artists and intellectuals. It was not unusual for greats like W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington to visit the Miller home. Poet Langston Hughes was among the friends of May Miller.

A native Washingtonian and a graduate of Dunbar High School and Howard University, Ms. Miller did postgraduate study in literature at American University and Columbia University. For 20 years she traveled daily to Baltimore to teach English, speech and drama at Frederick Douglass High School.

Ms. Miller began writing poetry as a child, often encouraged by her father, for whom the Kelly Miller Junior High School in Washington is named. After graduating first in her class at Howard University, she set out to become a playwright and poet.

Ms. Miller wrote with feeling about people and places in and around Washington and about memories and folk tales from her childhood. A self-styled poet, Ms. Miller's work has been published in magazines and in several collections.

May Miller Sullivan often remarked, "If out of a silence I can fill that silence with a word that will conjure up an image, then I have succeeded." By all standards, May Miller Sullivan was a huge success. Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will want to extend their condolences to Ms. Miller's family—Gloria Miller Clark, Kelly Miller III, Suzanne Miller Jefferson, and many other nieces and nephews.

## TRIBUTE TO HERB BRIN

## HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

## HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 1995*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we invite our colleagues today to join us in sending our congratulations and very best wishes to Herbert H. "Herb" Brin on the 80th anniversary of his birth.

Herb was born in Chicago in 1915 to Jewish immigrant parents and went on to become one of the founding beat reporters of the City News Bureau, covering everything from gangland killings to the rise of Nazi-sympathizer groups, which he helped expose before entering the Army during World War II. Injured in training, Brin became a regular reporter-columnist for Stars and Stripes, interviewing four-star generals for the enlisted man's newspaper. After the war, he moved with his wife to California and became a star reporter for the Los Angeles Times, covering stories such as the trial of Adolf Eichmann.

In 1953, Herb quit the Times to take over the Heritage group of Jewish newspapers, with editions covering Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties. His personal, no-holds-barred style of journalism broke scoop after scoop. Heritage first brought into national attention the rise of the Aryan Nations and other neo-Nazi hate groups. His coverage of the Klaus Barbie trial in Lyons was picked up all over the world. Year in and year out, Herbert Brin has been a tireless champion for Los Angeles, for Israel, and for the Jewish people.

Those of us fortunate enough to know Herb are filled with admiration at the many achievements of his life. Throughout his distinguished career in journalism, he was always the most vigilant of watchdogs on issues affecting the Jewish community. On many occasions, the statements and conduct of opponents of Israel and anti-Semites were exposed only because of his diligence and personal commitment to justice.

Thank you for a lifetime of service to the Jewish community—and many, many happy returns of this day!

## CRIME IN AMERICA

## HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 1995*

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a former Federal prosecutor to discuss the growing problem of crime facing our country.